

MISCELLANY

From time to time in this department of California and Western Medicine, appear columns grouped under the following headings: Comment on Current and Recent Articles in this Journal; News; Medical Economics; Readers' Forum; California State Board of Health; and California Board of Medical Examiners. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Sacramento Hospital—We have just been notified that the Sacramento Hospital has been approved by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association for intern training.

Once More: Member-Fellowships—The attention of members is again called to Fellowships in the American Medical Association. Of the 4328 members of the California Medical Association in 1927, 3299 are Fellows of this national association.

Any member who desires to secure a Fellowship can obtain from his county secretary, or from the office of the state secretary, 1016 Balboa Building, 593 Market Street, San Francisco, the approved application blank for Fellowship. This application must be signed by the state secretary and be accompanied by a check to the American Medical Association for \$5.—*A. M. A. Bulletin.*

New Director for Desert Sanatorium—The Desert Sanatorium announces the appointment of Dr. Roland A. Davison, formerly chief of the division of gastroenterology and metabolism at the Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California, as assistant medical director.

Northern California Association of Physiotherapists—The association maintains a registry bureau under the direction of Miss Hilda Knaisenberger at Hahnemann Hospital. The registry bureau is for the doctor who wishes to obtain the well-trained ethical technician as his assistant.

Under the reorganization the association has chosen as the officers: Hazel E. Furscott, president; Margaret Stevenson, vice-president; Florence Burrell, secretary and treasurer.

Drs. Morton Gibbons, Ernest W. Cleary, and Howard Naffziger comprise the Medical Advisory Committee.

The Northern California Association of Physiotherapists had its first meeting Wednesday evening, September 27, at dinner in La Casa Alta, 442 Post Street.

This meeting was the first program meeting of the new organization. Dr. Frank B. Granger of Harvard Medical College, Boston, Massachusetts, and a member of the Physiotherapy Council of the American Medical Association, was the speaker of the evening.

He spoke of the work of the council which has been established by the American Medical Association to get at the truth about physiotherapy procedures; to set standards of training technicians; to train doctors to intelligently prescribe physiotherapy, and to standardize equipment. The council has already published reports on window-glass substitutes for transmitting the sun's ultra-violet rays.

Doctor Granger discussed the relative value of the ultra-violet rays from the sun, the mercury quartz vapor lamp, and the carbon arc lamp. Experiment has shown the mercury quartz lamp treatments to be most efficacious and expeditious, even more so than direct sun rays.

The meeting resolved itself into a discussion which included the after treatment of poliomyelitis, hemi-

plegia, the athletic group of injuries, neuritis, and low-back strain.

The Physiotherapy Association has as its plan for the winter the following program:

November 9—Electrotherapy—Dr. Howard Plank.

February 8—Demonstration of Technique at Stanford University—Dr. H. Langnecker.

April 11—A Trip Through the Equipment Shops.

May 1—The Annual Meeting at Sacramento.

The Leslie Dana Gold Medal, awarded annually to the person who has done most for the conservation of vision in the preceding year, was presented in St. Louis on October 17 to Dr. Lucien Howe of Buffalo, New York, by Lewis H. Carris, managing director of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. Doctor Carris said that Doctor Howe was responsible for the first law on preventing ophthalmia neonatorum, the Howe Law, passed in 1890 in New York State. Similar laws making it obligatory for midwives, doctors and nurses to report promptly all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum observed, and a law requiring the use of prophylactic drops in the eyes of all new-born babies have since been enacted in almost every state in the union.

The last meeting of the Southern California Medical Association was held in the Beaux Arts Building, San Bernardino, Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, November 24-25.

A special meeting of the Board of Councilors and additional men was held at the Curtisy Tea Rooms in San Bernardino on Friday, October 7, 1927, at noon. The question of the proposed change in the present method of admitting patients to the County Hospital was thoroughly discussed. The following recommendation was finally determined upon: "That the Board of Supervisors be requested to appoint a committee to consider this matter. The committee to number eight."

One representative from each district appointed by its own supervisor. It is expected that these will be laymen. One to represent the County Hospital, Doctor Meyer; one to represent the County Medical Society; and one to represent all the private hospitals in this county.

This committee would investigate from all angles and obtain testimony from every class or person involved and then submit its findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Pending the submitting of this report it is suggested that the superintendent of the County Hospital be empowered to modify at his own discretion the present order regarding acceptance of fees and the admittance of only charity patients to the County Hospital.—Program of San Bernardino County Medical Society.

Dr. A. K. Dunlap of Sacramento was recently elected president of the Northern California District Medical Society at its forty-third semi-annual meeting held in Stockton, October 25.

Dr. Corneille Heymans—A special lecture will be given on "Contributions to the Physiology and Pharmacology of the Cardio-Inhibitory and Respiratory Centers" by Dr. Corneille Heymans, extraordinary professor of pharmacology, faculty of medicine, University of Ghent, on Wednesday, December 7, at 8

p. m. in Lane Hall, Sacramento Street corner of Webster, San Francisco. The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides. All members of the profession and medical students are cordially invited to attend.

Noted Viennese Visits U. C. Campus—Sigmund Fraenkel, professor of medical chemistry at the University of Vienna, who has come to America to deliver a series of lectures before medical research groups, is stopping his tour for a month to carry on some research work in the laboratories of the University of California in collaboration with Professor Herbert M. Evans of the anatomy department.

While in Berkeley, Professor Fraenkel will deliver a series of five public lectures on the theory of synthetic remedies, on November 21, 23, 28 and 30, and December 2, in room 110 of Wheeler Hall.

Professor Fraenkel has had a distinguished career, especially in the relations of organic chemistry to medicine. As a young man he worked with such noted authorities as Eugen Baumann, Oswald Schmiedeberg and Franz Hofmeister in biochemistry and pharmacology. He has written a book which has now gone into a sixth edition, because it is the only important and comprehensive text in its field.

He is an outstanding authority on the relation of the chemical make-up of substances to their action on living tissue. The important phase of his work is an attempt to develop synthetic organic chemicals which have an ideal action on living tissue for definite purposes, such as local anesthesia or relief of pain.

His chief work has been on the chemistry of proteins; on the chemistry of nervous, especially brain, tissue; on the chemistry of vitamins, especially a method for the quantitative determination of vitamin B, and on the chemistry of the internal secretions of the endocrine glands, in which field he is now working with Doctor Evans.—*U. S. Clip Sheet*, November 22, 1927.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS

State to Care for Crippled Children—The following extract from the Crippled Children Act of 1927 indicates the scope of the work to be undertaken by the California Department of Public Health in the care of crippled children:

"The State Department of Public Health shall have the power and it shall be its duty to seek out needy physically defective or handicapped persons under the age of eighteen years by local surveys arranged through local lawful authorities, social welfare and other public and private agencies; provided, that no record shall be taken and/or kept except of such children as are specified in this section.

"It shall likewise have the power and it shall be its duty to arrange through such local agencies for local public diagnostic clinics or conferences for such physically defective and handicapped persons, when and where it shall appear necessary and bring to such persons expert diagnoses near their own homes.

"Whenever the parents or guardian of any such physically defective or handicapped person shall be unable, in whole or in part, to furnish for such child or ward, resident of the state, necessary surgical, medical, hospital, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other service, special treatment, materials, appliances and their upkeep, maintenance, care and transportation, the parents or guardian may petition the Superior Court of the county wherein such parents or guardian is or are resident for a certificate setting forth such fact, and if the judge is satisfied that the parents or guardian is or are unable, in whole or in part, to furnish such services, treatment, materials, or appliances and their upkeep, or such maintenance, care and transportation, he shall issue a certificate to

that effect. Such certificate shall be presented to the State Department of Public Health and it shall be its duty to furnish, in whole or in part, such services, transportation, materials, or appliances and their upkeep, such maintenance, care and transportation as in its judgment are necessary and proper, the expense thereof to be advanced by the State Department of Public Health out of a revolving fund appropriated for that purpose. Provided, however, that the State Department of Public Health may pay the same out of any funds received by it through gift, devise, or bequest, without the possession of such certificate. All moneys expended under the authority of such certificate, as herein provided, shall constitute a legal county charge against the county from which such certificate is issued. Upon presentation to the Board of Supervisors of the county in which such certificate was issued, of an itemized claim, duly sworn to by the secretary of the State Department of Public Health, for the expense of the above set out services, transportation, materials, appliances and their upkeep, care and maintenance and furnished under the authority of said certificate, said Board of Supervisors shall audit and approve said claim, and the county auditor of said county, shall thereupon issue a warrant for the amount thereof payable to the State Department of Public Health, and the county treasurer shall pay the same."—*Weekly Bulletin*, California Department of Public Health.

New Orleans Legislature Limits Service of County Hospital to Indigent Poor—The last legislature passed an act which gave the New Orleans Charity Hospital the right to give free medical service to only those unable to pay for it, thereby attempting to stop an abuse which has existed since the foundation of this institution. That the physician should be exploited for the power that he had become so well an established custom in Louisiana that it led some to publish what they considered an economic fact, viz., that it was cheaper to give applicants medical attention without questioning their ability to pay than to investigate. The objectors probably either had the idea that the population as a whole was poverty stricken, or a groceryman should give credit to everyone, if he wants to be successful financially.—*Western Medical Times*.

Recent Legislation Concerning Establishment of County Hospitals—During the last session of the Florida Legislature, Senate Bill No. 10 was passed and approved by the governor on April 23, 1927. This is an act which enables certain counties to establish county hospitals. It affects only those counties which showed a population of from thirty to sixty thousand inhabitants according to the 1925 census. These counties are Alachua, Escambia, Jackson, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Volusia.

The bill specifies that the Board of County Commissioners shall submit the question to a vote when petitioned by five hundred voters from that county. Bonds may also be voted and a tax assessed for the support and maintenance of the County Hospital. The act provides for the creation of a board of hospital trustees and specifies their duties.

The provisions of the act designate the hospitals as institutions to take care of both charity and pay patients.

The attention of the medical societies in the counties affected by this act is directed to the provisions. It is suggested that the matter be discussed at the meetings of county medical societies with the view of determining the need of such an institution in their counties.

Palm Beach has already organized and plans to have a County Hospital if a bond issue can be obtained at the next election. Any support that can be given to this project by organized medicine will doubt-